

community, his family and his friends. Those who had the pleasure of knowing him and the benefit of working with him will surely continue to remember him as a dedicated, faithful friend to all. He will truly be missed.

I applaud Jerry Blocker and the Metro Detroit Society of Professional Journalists for their leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them for their exemplary years of leadership and service.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH
ANNIVERSARY OF EDS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, 40 years ago, June 27, 1962, an industry was born with the investment of just \$1,000. That industry today is nearly half a trillion dollar market and provides jobs to more than 20 million people around the world.

With the founding of EDS, Electronic Data Systems, that day, the world started doing business in a different way as information technology services became part of the global economy. Today, information technology is pervasive. Whether we're using an ATM, making airline reservations, or renewing a driver's license, we are all surrounded by computing power that fundamentally affects how we live.

Plano, Texas-based EDS started small with just a few employees using the excess capacity of other company's computers. Today, EDS has 140,000 employees serving government and business in 60 countries with revenue of \$21.5 billion.

There have been many milestones along EDS's journey.

In the 1960s, EDS developed the first comprehensive system for managing public health care programs. Today, EDS processes 2.4 billion medical claims transactions a year.

In 1976, EDS started processing airline tickets sold by travel agents. EDS is now the largest provider of IT services to the airline industry.

EDS launched the systems-integration market in 1982 with the U.S. Army's Project Viable, a vast and complex human-resources system. At that time, it was the largest IT-services contract ever let by the U.S. Army.

In the 1990s, the United Kingdom's Inland Revenue Service selected EDS to become its IT services provider.

Today, EDS is building a vast intranet for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps under the largest IT contract ever awarded by the U.S. government. The value is \$6.9 billion.

EDS has long made significant contributions to its communities. Its award-winning JASON Project brings the thrill of discovery to hundreds of thousands of school children each year. The company also provides grants to elementary school teachers so they can bring the latest technology to the classroom. And each fall thousands of EDS employees go out into the community to lend a helping hand as part of Global Volunteer Day.

EDS is entering its fifth decade doing what it does best—managing and integrating information technology services. It is committed to building trust with each client and to making

available to all clients sophisticated information security and business-continuity services.

Well-deployed information technology has fueled significant productivity gains in the last 40 years—particularly in the last decade. These gains are especially valuable today in an interconnected, global, digital economy. EDS is a big part of those gains.

The information-technology industry holds unprecedented opportunity. Everyone wants to be part of it. Many companies are realizing what EDS understood 40 years ago—that even the most groundbreaking technologies quickly lose their edge unless they are creatively and innovatively applied.

Some may think the forty-year milestone may mean middle age is approaching. Not in EDS's case. It is a company as focused on delivering value to its clients today as it was in 1962. It stays young by reinventing itself and listening to its clients.

Mr. President, please join me in saluting EDS for its many contributions to the information technology services industry and in wishing the company well for another 40 years.

2002 SNICKERS REGION I
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the 2002 Region I SNICKERS Championship to the Western New York area. The SNICKERS® Region I Championships are the most important United States Youth Soccer registered team competition conducted by the Region, or by any State Association within each State Association each year. As such, this competition requires that each State Association and all members of State Associations support the Championships as their first priority.

The 2002 SNICKERS Region I Championships will be held Friday, June 28th through Tuesday, July 2nd. I would like to extend congratulations to all teams, parents, referees and administration who will be participating in the 2002 SNICKERS Region I Championships. This most prestigious event will be a measure of accomplishment they will always cherish and remember.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend all of the participants in the 2002 Region I SNICKERS Championship for their focus on the young athletes of America's future. It is the goal of not only preparing the athletes for competition but to promote positive contributions towards an equally important world of physical fitness—with learning at the heart of all of our activities.

AMERICAN CITIZENS TAKEN
AGAINST THEIR WILL TO SAUDI
ARABIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I commend to our colleagues' attention an editorial from yester-

day's Wall Street Journal that highlights the many cases of American women who have been forcibly taken to Saudi Arabia. Even though they are U.S. citizens, once taken to Saudi Arabia, they have not been allowed to leave.

I hope the 107th Congress and this Administration will put a stop to this practice and receive assurances from the Saudi Government that it will not happen again.

[The Wall Street Journal; Review and Outlook]

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S WOMEN

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer should stop referring to grown women as children. The women in question are Amjad Radwan and Alia and Aisha Gheshtayan, three American citizens in Saudi Arabia whose fate has finally become an issue for Congress.

When reporters at a White House press briefing recently deluged Mr. Fleischer with questions about whether President Bush had raised their plight during an Oval Office chat with the visiting Saudi Foreign Minister, he repeatedly—eight times by our count—invoked the word “custody” or “custody of a child” to characterize how the “President views this.”

It's true that a number of American mothers have had an awful time getting children out of Saudi Arabia, though even here it beggars belief to reduce these to custody disputes. But two of the three cases that the House Government Reform Committee aired during its hearings did not involve children.

Amjad Radwan is 19 years old and, unlike her older brother, cannot leave Saudi Arabia because she is a woman and must have the permission of her Saudi father, who refuses to give it. In highly charged testimony delivered via videotape, Amjad's mom, Monica Stowers, told the House she remains in Saudi Arabia because she fears for her daughter's life; Miss Stowers further reported that both her son and daughter were raped by members of her former husband's family. Alia and Aisha Gheshtayan are also adults.

When pressed on this point, the State Department says it has made every effort to ascertain the women's wishes about returning to America. In the case of Miss Roush's daughters, however, State concedes that it hasn't seen them since the mid-1990s. Moreover, its own human-rights report on Saudi Arabia declares that “physical spousal abuse and violence against women” is “common” and that the Saudi government tends to look the other way. Translation: The only way these Americans are going to be able to speak freely, without fear of returning home to a beating, is to insist that Riyadh give them the exit visas that will allow them to come here.

The truth is that there isn't soul at State or the Saudi Foreign Ministry who doesn't understand that if President Bush were to express his displeasure to Crown Prince Abdullah, then Alia, Aisha and Amjad would be on the next plane for New York. And things would never have reached this dismal stage if the State Department hadn't signaled from the start that it was willing to let all the ground rules be set by Saudi law and custom—even in defiance of U.S. courts, arrest warrants and rights.

Last June, 23 Senators, including leaders Trent Lott and Tom Daschle, signed a letter urging Secretary of State Colin Powell “in the strongest possible terms, to intervene forcefully and in person with the Saudi authorities at the highest levels to secure the prompt release and repatriation of Alia and Aisha Gheshtayan.” The immediate answer was the standard State kiss-off: a letter explaining that the women were “subject to Saudi law.”